

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A cannula, comprising:
 - a proximal portion;
 - a distal portion which comprises a spiral cut extending through an external surface of the distal portion and along a longitudinal axis of the cannula wherein the cannula is defined from a continuum of material; and
 - a tool disposed proximate the distal portion that is defined from the continuum of material.
2. (Original) The cannula of Claim 1, wherein the spiral cut is taken at about sixty to about eighty degrees from the longitudinal axis of the cannula, and is about 0.001 to about 0.002 inches (about 0.25 to about 0.5 mm) wide.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously Presented) The cannula of Claim 1, further comprising an intermediate portion about 0.5 inches long to about 2 inches (about 13 mm to about 51 mm) long, proximal to the distal portion, having a spiral cut with a pitch less than a pitch of the distal portion.
6. (Original) The cannula of Claim 1, wherein an outer diameter of the cannula is from about 0.022 inches (0.56 mm, 1.7 Fr) to about 0.034 inches (0.86 mm, 2.6 Fr).
7. (Previously Presented) The cannula of Claim 1, wherein the tool is a grasper portion.
8. (Original) The cannula of Claim 1, wherein the spiral cut is selected from the group consisting of a continuous cut and a discontinuous cut.

9. (Withdrawn) The cannula of Claim 1, further comprising a device at a distal end of the cannula for removing material, the device selected from the group consisting of a blade, a slicing-type blade, a slicing-type blade and a separate barbed stylet through a center of the cannula, a helix, and a helical catcher/extractor, wherein the device for removing material is defined from the continuum of material.

10. (Previously Presented) The cannula of Claim 1, wherein the tool is a laser grasper, including a grasper defined from the continuum of material and comprising a laser fiber within the cannula.

11. (Previously Presented) The cannula of Claim 1, further comprising a ureteroscope comprising an optical fiber and an irrigation system.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) The cannula of Claim 1, wherein the cannula comprises a material selected from the group consisting of stainless steel, Nitinol, a shape-memory alloy, a polymer, and a polymer composite.

14. (Original) The cannula of Claim 1, further comprising a sheath enclosing at least a portion of the cannula.

15. (Currently amended) A cannula, comprising:
a proximal portion;
a distal portion which comprises a spiral cut extending through an external surface of the distal portion and that is taken at an angle of from about sixty degrees to about eighty degrees from a longitudinal axis of the cannula, wherein the proximal portion and the distal portion are defined from a continuum of metal; and
a first intermediate portion between the proximal portion and the distal portion; and
a grasping portion disposed proximate the distal portion and defined from the continuum of metal.

16. (Original) The cannula of Claim 15, wherein the spiral cut is about 0.001 to 0.002 inches wide.

17. (Original) The cannula of Claim 15, wherein the proximal portion is from about 3 feet long to about 5 feet long and a portion with a spiral cut is from about 2 inches long to about 6 inches long (about 7.5 cm to about 15 cm long).

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) The cannula of Claim 15, further comprising a laser fiber within the cannula.

21. (Previously Presented) The cannula of Claim 15, further comprising a second intermediate portion between the spiral cut in the distal portion and the grasping portion.

22. (Previously Presented) The cannula of Claim 21, wherein the second intermediate portion has material removed in a second spiral cut with a pitch less than a pitch of the spiral cut in the distal portion.

23. (Withdrawn) The cannula of Claim 15, further comprising a device for removing material selected from the group consisting of a blade, a slicing-type blade, a slicing-type blade and a separate barbed stylet through a center of the cannula, a helical catcher/extractor, and a helix.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Original) The cannula of Claim 15, wherein the spiral cut is selected from the group consisting of a continuous cut and a discontinuous cut.

26. (Original) The cannula of Claim 15, further comprising a sheath enclosing at least a portion of the cannula.

27. (Withdrawn) A method of extracting an object, the method comprising:
 - placing a grasper near the object;
 - grasping the object; and
 - removing the object, wherein the grasper has been made from a cannula defined from a continuum of material, the cannula having a distal portion which comprises a spiral cut along a longitudinal axis of the cannula.
28. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 27, wherein the grasper is a laser grasper and further comprising breaking the object into small pieces.
29. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 27, wherein the grasper further comprises an optical device and a irrigation system, and further comprising irrigating and viewing the object.